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I. UI RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

A. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Study Title:	<u>Unemployment Insurance Service (UIS) Performance Measurement Review (PMR) Project</u>
Purpose:	To examine, evaluate and improve the mechanisms for assessing State Employment Security Agencies (SESA) performance in administering the UI program thereby promoting continuous improvement in the delivery of prompt and quality services to the program's primary customers - claimants and employers. This project is also designed to ensure that the Secretary of Labor's statutory responsibilities for the administration and oversight of the UI programs are being carried out effectively. PMR is a multi-year project consisting of three phases. Phase I, the design stage, included the development of alternative performance measures. Phase II, the current phase, is a field test of measures to determine their operational feasibility. Phase III will include phased implementation.
Beginning Date:	September 30, 1988
Ending Date:	Late 1995 - begin Nationwide implementation
Contractor:	Phase II - Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.
UI Monitor:	William N. Coyne
Status:	<p>The six States participating in the field test of PMR measures - California, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, New Hampshire and Wisconsin have been invited, along with the original steering committee members and the State expert panel, to take part in the post-field test meeting scheduled for February 15 and 16, 1995 in Washington D.C. Some definitional revisions, parameter definitions and report formatting changes will be reviewed at the post-field test meeting to reach a consensus on actions taken as a result of the mid-test meeting.</p> <p>A UIPL/FRN with the contractor's interim final report attached has been issued. Comments are being received now on proposed phased nationwide implementation to begin in September 1995. MPR has submitted for our review a design for data validation and the preparation of validation manuals as PMR is implemented.</p>
Funding Source:	National Activities (Phase II)
Study Title:	<u>Employee Leasing Study</u>
Purpose:	The overall goal of this project is to determine the impacts of employee leasing on UI claimants and on the UI system. Specific objectives include whether employee leasing has led to experience rating manipulation, unpaid

employer taxes and reduced UI grants as a result of fewer employers.

Beginning Date:	June 1, 1993
Ending Date:	June 30, 1996
Contractor:	KRA Corporation
Project Monitor:	Rett Hensley
Status:	Testing of this program continues with the Maryland Department of Employment and Economic Development. A survey was mailed to all 53 State Employment Security Agencies and 49 of them have been completed and returned. Results of this survey are expected to be available by the end of January.
Funding Source:	Pilots and Demonstrations
Study Title:	<u>Study of An Increase in the Unemployment Insurance Federal Taxable Wage Base</u>
Purpose:	This study was undertaken in order to develop a better understanding of employer response to changes in the Federal taxable wage base and its impact on employment. It can be used by policy makers at the State and Federal level in the formulation of policy towards increasing the Federal taxable wage base.
Beginning Date:	June 30, 1992
Ending Date:	September 1, 1994
Contractor:	KRA Corporation
Project Monitor:	Robert Pavosevich
Status:	The final report has been submitted. The report consists of a review of all pertinent literature, a macro model which uses State labor supply and labor demand formulations, and State level micro data on individual employers. The authors studied the impacts of a tax base increase on both labor and industry, high and low wage employers, small and large firms, and different States.
Funding Source:	UI National Activities
Study Title:	Revenue Quality Control Employer Compliance Pilot
Purpose:	To test the feasibility of determining the Extent to which registered UI

employers comply with State laws regarding filing accurate contribution reports and payment of contributions due.

Beginning Date:	Mid 1995
Ending Date:	June 1997
Contractor:	Abt Associates assisted in design; contractor to assist with implementation and perform the evaluation has yet to be selected.
UI Project Monitor:	Burman Skrable
Status:	This Project was put on hold, but is now being reconsidered for start-up. If resumed, the project is not expected to begin before summer 1995.
Funding Source:	UI National Activities

B. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS

Study Title:	Benefit Payment Control (BPC) Technical assistance Guide (TAG) and Training
Purpose:	<p>To examine, evaluate and identify successful and cost effective methods nationwide for operating benefit overpayment prevention, detection, recovery and prosecution systems.</p> <p>A comprehensive BPC TAG, which serves both the intrastate and interstate programs, will be developed and associated training will be conducted for State BPC staff on the use of the newly developed TAG.</p>
Beginning Date:	October 1, 1991
Ending Date:	February 1, 1995
Contractor:	Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development
UI Monitor:	Wayne Zajac
Status:	Maryland has completed the BPC TAG and has distributed it to all States. The Maryland project staff conducted three training sessions on the BPC TAG and related topics during fall 1994. A final report, which includes the results of the training evaluation, was submitted by the Maryland project staff in December 1994.
Funding Source:	UI National Activities

II. UI DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Study Title: Maryland Work Search Demonstration

Purpose: This demonstration project is an extension of the DOL research projects that have examined the effects of UI and ES services to facilitate claimants' return to work. This demonstration will determine whether or not the stringency of work search requirements accelerates claimant reemployment and reduces UI benefits paid, without reducing the wage rate obtained by the claimant. The results from this demonstration will provide valuable information to DOL and all States on the desired effect of work search requirements, and identify potential policy changes that can be made to make work search requirements more effective.

Beginning Date: September 27, 1991

Ending Date: March 1997

Contractor: Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Deployment (DEED), with Abt Associates

UI Project Monitor: Wayne Gordon

Status: New participant enrollment ended December 1994. Services to and monitoring of participants will continue until the last participant's benefit year expires. Collection of State administrative data for analysis has begun.

Funding Source: UI National Activities

Study Title: New Jersey Follow-Up Study II

Purpose: To conduct a second follow-up study of the long-term earnings and UI program impacts on selected participants in the New Jersey Reemployment Demonstration Project (NJUIRDP). Treatment services were: (1) Job Search Assistance (JSA); (2) JSA with training or relocation allowance; and (3) Job Search Assistance combined with a reemployment bonus. Results from the original NJUIRDP showed that job search assistance alone was the most effective treatment service. A follow-up study was completed in 1990 and indicated that the treatment service impacts need to be measured over a seven-year period and during different economic conditions. Results should be very useful in analyzing the long-term impacts of the treatment services.

Beginning Date: June 30, 1992

Ending Date: December 30, 1994

Contractor:	New Jersey Department of Labor with Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.
UI Project Monitor:	Ron Wilus
Status:	Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. has completed the report. Copies of the final evaluation report, together with a separate summary of the results and implications of the original and follow-up New Jersey studies are expected to be available by early February.
Funding Source:	Unemployment Insurance Research and Training (UI R&T)
Study Title:	UI Self-Employment Demonstration Evaluation
Purpose:	The purpose of this project is to determine the viability of self-employment as a reemployment option for unemployed workers. This contract provides an evaluation of two experimental UI Self-Employment Demonstration Projects that were conducted in the States of Washington and Massachusetts. This will provide a process analysis, impact analysis, and benefit-cost analysis of these projects.
Beginning Date:	June 16, 1988
Ending Date:	January 31, 1995
Contractor:	Abt Associates Inc.
UI Project	Monitor: Jon C. Messenger
Status:	The contractor is currently preparing the final evaluation report on the Washington and Massachusetts Self-Employment Projects, which will be completed by the end of the contract, January 31, 1995.
Funding Source:	UI National Activities

III. DOL PROJECTS RELATED TO UI

Study Title:	Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act Study
Purpose:	The purpose of this study is to evaluate the impact of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act of 1991 on the labor market experience of the unemployment insurance claimants, on the economy, and UI trust funds, and to explore policy options for extending benefits during periods of future high unemployment.
Beginning Date:	September 30, 1994

Ending Date: March 31, 1997

Contractor: Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

UI Project Monitor: Rob Pavosevich

Status: The contractor is currently summarizing related studies and beginning work on both the research design and the survey instrument; the survey instrument will be used to sample EUC claimants.

Funding Source: Pilots and Demonstrations

Study Title: Evaluation of Worker Profiling Systems

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to provide research assistance to DOL in conducting a comprehensive evaluation of the operations and effectiveness of State Worker Profiling and Reemployment Services Systems. The plan is to conduct an evaluation of the Worker Profiling and Reemployment Services

Initiative which will provide:

1. information on the operation and effectiveness of State Worker Profiling and Reemployment Services Systems that have been developed in accordance with Public Law (PL)103-152; and
2. an assessment of State operations that pertain to the initiating, and the effectiveness of more established State Systems.

Beginning Date: July 1, 1994

Ending Date: June 30, 1998

Contractor: Social Policy Research Associates

UI Project Monitor: Jon C. Messenger

Status: An introductory meeting between DOL staff working on the initiative and the contractor has been held, and the contractor has completed a preliminary report. A final version of this report is expected to be submitted by the end of January 1995. The contractor will then begin on-site data collection visits to Maryland (the test State) and to five prototype States (Florida, Kentucky, Oregon, Delaware, and New Jersey).

Funding Source: UI National Activities

Study Title: Evaluation of Short-Time Compensation Programs

Purpose: The purpose of this study is to gather data and conduct the analyses necessary for the improvement of the program and for the Secretary of Labor to provide a required report to Congress on the implementation of Section 401 of the Unemployment Compensation Amendments of 1992.

Beginning Date: June 30, 1994

Ending Date: June 30, 1996

Contractor: Berkeley Planning Associates and Mathematica Policy Research

UI Project Monitor: Ingrid Evans

Status: The contractor has prepared a draft evaluation design and has begun communicating with States to gather data for the study.

Funding Source: Pilots and Demonstrations

Study Title: Evaluation of the Implementation of Voice Response Units in the Unemployment Insurance System

Purpose: To provide summary information on voice response units (VRUs) in Unemployment Insurance State operations nationwide and detailed analysis on the nature and impact of VRUs in two to four specific State operations. This analysis will require on-site review of VRU operations in the selected States to establish: 1) functions performed by the units, 2) impacts on the level and quality of services provided to UI claimants by VRUs, and 3) analysis of the manner in which VRUs are integrated into UI operations, including interface with established computer operations.

Beginning Date: January 1995

Ending Date: April 1996

Contractor: Contract award is pending.

UI Project Monitor: Douglas Scott

Status: Contract award is currently under negotiation.

Funding Source: UI National Activities